

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for initiating data capture in a digital camera, the method comprising:
 - 2 activating a text-recognition mode in the digital camera;
 - 4 acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be recognized;
 - 6 selecting a first target scene at which to aim the digital camera;
 - 8 capturing a first digital image of the first target scene;
 - 10 converting the first digital image to a first text file; and
 - 12 searching the first text file for the text pattern.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 saving a digital representation of the first target scene, when the text pattern is recognized.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital representation comprises the first text file.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital image.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting a first target scene at which to aim the digital camera, capturing a first digital image of the first target scene, converting the first digital image to a first text file, searching the first text file for the text pattern, and saving a digital representation of the first target scene, when the text

pattern is recognized, are repeated until a command to terminate the text-recognition mode is received.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 receiving a continue command in the digital camera after selecting a
first target scene at which to aim the digital camera and prior to capturing a
4 first digital image of the first target scene.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein saving a digital representation of the first target
2 scene is performed for each subsequent target scene for which the text pattern is
recognized and the first text file associated with the current target scene differs
4 from the first text file associated with the previous target scene for which a digital
representation was saved.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises scrolling within a displayed list of alphanumeric characters
and selecting alphanumeric characters from the displayed list that specify the text
4 pattern.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises the use of speech recognition.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises retrieving a previously saved text pattern.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 signaling when the text pattern is recognized.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 receiving a confirmation command in the digital camera;
4 capturing a second digital image of a second target scene; and
4 saving a digital representation of the second target scene.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the digital representation comprises a text file.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital
2 image.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 capturing a second digital image of a second target scene after a
4 predetermined delay; and
4 saving a digital representation of the second target scene

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the digital representation comprises a text file.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital
2 image.

18. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 an optical system;
- 4 an imaging device for receiving from the optical system an optical image of a target scene to be photographed and converting the received optical image to a digital image;
- 6 a memory for storing the digital image;
- 8 an optical character recognition module for converting the digital image to a text file;
- 10 a device for acquiring a text pattern to be searched within the text file; and
- a controller for determining when the text pattern is recognized.

19. The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:

- 2 an audible tone generator for signaling when the text pattern is recognized.

20. The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:

- 2 an image compression module for producing a compressed digital image from the digital image.

21. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 means for collecting an optical image;
- 4 means for converting the optical image to a digital image;
- 4 means for storing the digital image;
- means for converting the digital image to a text file; and

6 means for acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be searched
within the text file.

22. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for saving the text file when the text pattern is recognized.

23. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for compressing the digital image to produce a compressed
digital image;

4 means for saving the compressed digital image when the text pattern is
recognized.

24. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for signaling when the text pattern is recognized.